UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7499

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF NEPAL

IPF:(1992-96) $52 361 000

(NEP/92/G31) - Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	16 June 1993
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$3 800 000
Total UNDP budget:	$3 800 000

Project background

The variety of ecosystems, the rarity of these ecosystems globally, the number of endemic species, and the number of threatened and endangered species, all contribute to ranking Nepal among the world's most important areas for biodiversity conservation. In recent years, the country's rich biodiversity has been threatened as a result of degradation of the natural ecosystems, loss of indigenous species of both flora and fauna, and loss of genetic variety within many of these species. Nepal has sought to protect its biodiversity by establishing protected areas including National Parks and, more recently, Conservation Areas. Fourteen protected areas have been established covering 15,931 sq. km, or 11 percent of the land area of the country. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), one of four departments under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, has the mandate for **in-situ** conservation of ecosystems and genetic resources in Nepal. Each protected area is the responsibility of the Chief Warden, who is directly responsible to the Director-General of DNPWC. The National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (1973), with amendments enacted in 1975 and 1983, provides the basis for (1973), with amendments enacted in 1975 and 1983, provides the basis for park and reserve administration and wildlife conservation in Nepal.

To complement the protected areas system, the Government established the Makalu-Barun National Park and Conservation Area (MBNPCA) in 1991. A comprehensive management plan was prepared and has been endorsed by the Government. As part of its strategy for ecosystem and genetic resource conservation, the Government signed a 12 year agreement with the Woodlands Mountain Institute (WMI), the partner agency in the MBNPCA component of the project, to design, implement, and raise financial assistance for the effective management of the MBNPCA in the eastern Himalayas adjoining the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park in Nepal and Qomolongma (Mt. Everest) Nature Reserve in Tibet. Despite the important initiatives to establish protected areas, Nepal's biological diversity is threatened due to the lack of an adequate number of trained personnel and resources, particularly forests, in areas surrounding the protected areas, and the high concentration of tourists

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

DEPT.

within a handful of the most popular protected areas. Approximately (US)$3.6 million has been secured by WMI from sources other than the GEF to fund the implementation of various components of the Makalu-Barun Management Plan. These complementary funds are being used to pay for community development activities, applied socio-economic research, some project personnel, and WMI administrative costs.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to promote the conservation of ecosystems and genetic resources with the involvement of local people to ensure that they benefit from conservation rather than becoming alienated by it.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) provide a systematic and strategic approach to biodiversity protection in Nepal by formulation of an NBAP and to implement selected priority activities of the NBAP; (b) implement selected activities of the MBNCPA Plan that are especially relevant to the GEF through a management approach which recognizes the interdependence of development and biodiversity conservation; and (c) enhance the national capacity to protect and manage Nepal's unique biodiversity through the provision of training and equipment.

Project activities will include: (a) determining the best mechanism for close collaboration with the Dutch-funded Biodiversity Profiles Project; (b) formulating the NBAP in accordance with the Convention on Biodiversity; (c) identifying appropriate, innovative and practical techniques for protection of the identified biodiversity values with the participation of local communities; (d) developing an integrated monitoring; (e) developing a sustainable grazing management system in MBNPCA; (f) preparing and implementing an eco-tourism programme system in MBNPCA; (g) developing an effective conservation education programme in consultation with the local people; and (h) establishing management systems for specific ecosystems within MBNPCA.

Inputs

UNDP will provide funding ($2.6 million) for implementation of the specific activities related to the implementation of the MBNPCA Management Plan; (190,000) the subcontract between the DNPWC and the KMTNC for the training of DNPWC staff; ($361,000) agreements undertaken between the DNPWC and other NGOs (to be identified) for the preparation and implementation of selected activities of the National Biodiversity Action Plan; and ($95,000) training activities to be undertaken by the DNPWC to enhance national capacity for the conservation of biodiversity. UNDP will also provide equipment ($95,000 million) to DNPWC, including radio sets, research/laboratory equipment and other equipment needed for field work; national professional staff ($114,000 million) to closely monitor the project; and a sum of $190,000 (5 percent of project cost) reserved for contingencies.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	251 400
Subcontract	3 151 000
Training	95 000
Equipment	95 000
Miscellaneous	207 600
Total	3 800 000

- - - - -